

## Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-13 /094 W

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R 200805Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3674

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USLO PEKING

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ELTN, CH, TZ, ZA

SUBJECT: TAZARA RAILWAY TURNOVER

REF: (A) 75 LUSAKA 2091; (B) HONG KONG 8231; (C) LUSAKA 1786

SUMMARY: JULY 15 CEREMONIES AT KAPIRI MPOSHI, MARKING TURNOVER BY CHINESE OF TAZARA RAILWAY TO GRZ AND TANGOV WERE ATTENDED BY PRESIDENTS KAUNDA (GRZ), NYERERE (TANGOV), MOBUTO (ZAIRE), KHAMA (BOTSWANA) AND CHINESE VICE-PREMIER SUN CHIEN (REFTEL B). DELEGATIONS OF UNIP AND TANU FUNCTIONARIES, GRZ OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES FROM LUSAKA WERE IN ATTENDANCE. SPEECHES BY KAUNDA, SUN CHIEN AND NYERERE WERE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE THREE HOUR PROGRAM. SPEECHES OF KAUNDA AND SUN CHIEN LAUDED THE JOINT COOPERATION INVOLVED IN BUILDING THE RAIL LINK, TOOK POT SHOTS AT EVIL COLONIALIST, NEO-COLONIST AND IMPERIALIST  
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INTERESTS WHICH UNSYMPATHETIC TO DEVELOPING WORLD'S REQUIREMENTS.

NYERERE STRUCK SIMILIAR NOTE IN LONGEST SEGMENT OF HIS  
SPEECH AND DEVOTED LAST THIRD TO ELABORATING ON NEED FOR CHANGE  
IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA BEFORE AFRICA COULD BE FREE. END SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT KAUNDA IN 20 MINUTE ADDRESS IN ADDITION TO DESCRIB-  
ING TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA AS "TWO COUNTRIES IN LOVE" HAVING A  
RECIPROCAL DUTY TO NUTURE THEIR RELATIONSHIP, CALLED FOR ONE  
MINUTE OF SILENCE IN TRIBUTE TO CHINESE HEROES, CHOU EN-LAI AND  
CHU TEH AND THOSE 160 WHO HAD DIED DURING CONSTRUCTION OF THE  
RAILWAY. WARNING THAT THOSE SUPPORTING AFRICAN UNITY AND  
LIBERATION ARE ALWAYS IN DANGER KAUNDA SAID: "WHAT TANU AND UNIP,  
WITH THE GREAT PEOPLE OF CHINA, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF CHAIRMAN  
MAO, HAVE VICTORIOUSLY JOINED TOGETHER, LET NO MAN, AND NO NATION  
PUT ASUNDER". AT EVENING BANQUET FOR VISITING CHIEFS OF STATE  
AND THE CHINESE DELEGATION KAUNDA ECHOED NYERERE IN OBSERVING THAT  
WEST'S REFUSAL OF ZAMBIAN AND TANZANIAN REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE  
TO CONSTRUCT RAILWAY SPRANG FROM FACT ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA STOOD  
FOR IMMEDIATE AND TOTAL LIBERATION OF AFRICA, WHEREAS WEST SUPPORTED  
THE STATUS QUO. KAUNDA ADDED, "IT MAY SOUND CYNICAL, IT IS TRUE  
THAT THE WESTERN REJECTION OF OUR REQUEST WAS A BLESSING  
IN DISGUISE."

3. VICE PREMIER SUN CHIEN IN HIS ADDRESS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION  
FOR THE FAITH AND GOOD WILL OF ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA DURING CON-  
STRUCTION OF THE PROJECT. COMPLETION OF THE RAIL LINK "...  
GREATLY HIGHTENS THE FIGHTING WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF TANZANIA  
AND ZAMBIA AND THE REST OF AFRICA AND DEFLATES THE ARROGANCE  
OF IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM AND BIG POWER HEGEMONISM". VICE  
PREMIER DESCRIBING HIS COUNTRY AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY WITH  
LIMITED CAPABILITIES NOTED THAT "THE LITTLE CONTRIBUTION WE  
HAVE MADE TO OUR FRIENDS IS OUR BOUNDEN PROLETARIAN INTERNA-  
TIONALIST DUTY".

4. TAKING APPROXIMATELY TWICE THE TIME OF PREVIOUS SPEAKERS,  
PRESIDENT NYERERE IN CEREMONIAL ORIENTED PORTION HIS SPEECH  
SAID THAT 160 WORKERS HAD DIED DURING CONSTRUCTION OF RAIL  
LINK 64 OF WHICH WERE CHINESE. NYERERE SAID CHINA HAD GIVEN  
TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA A GRANT OF KWACHA 36 MILLION ON TOP OF  
INTEREST FREE LOAN. THIS GRANT WAS TO COVER THE PROJECTS  
OVERRUN COSTS (REFTEL C). FOLLOWING OBSERVATION THAT WEST HAD  
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BEEN UNWILLING TO ASSIST IN PROJECT, NYERERE PRAISED  
CHINESE ASSISTANCE AS BEING WITHOUT HIDDEN COSTS OR STRINGS  
AND ADDED AFRICA WAS NOT USED TO GETTING AID ON SUCH TERMS.  
IN THE LAST THIRD OF SPEECH NYERERE DWELT STRIDENTLY ON UNFIN-  
ISHED TASK OF LIBERATING SOUTHERN AFRICA. RACIST REGIMES  
WERE ADMONISHED TO TURNOVER POWER TO BLACK MAJORITIES, OR BE  
FACED WITH FULL-SCALE WAR OF LIBERATION. NOTING THAT "IN  
RHODESIA, THE DIE IS CAST. THE ARMED STRUGGLE IS NOW". NYERERE

WENT ON TO ADD PEOPLE ARE DYING FOR FREEDOM IN ZIMBABWE NOT FOR ONE IDEOLOGY OR ANOTHER, NOR FOR ONE LEADER OR ANOTHER. THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE WILL DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES WHAT FORM OF GOVERNMENT THEY WILL HAVE AND WHO WILL HEAD IT WHEN THEY ARE IN A POSITION TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES. REGARDING NAMIBIA, NYERERE SAID THE STRUGGLE HAD BEGUN, BUT IT WAS NOT YET A FULL-SCALE WAR. THERE WAS JUST A LITTLE TIME LEFT FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

5. COMMENT: STRIDENT ANTI-WEST TONE OF SPEECHES WAS TO BE EXPECTED GIVEN PRC PROCLIVITY TOWARD BLASTING THE IMPERIALISTS AND LINGERING ZAMBIAN AND TANZANIAN RESENTMENT AT HAVING BEEN TURNED DOWN BY WEST ON FINANCING OF PROJECT. ANTAGONISTIC TONE OF AFRICAN LEADERS' SPEECHES COULD ALSO BE READ AS THEIR WAY OF SHOWING RESPECT AND GRATITUDE TO PRC WHICH STEPPED INTO THE BREACH. CHINESE OPERATING PERSONNEL WERE VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE DURING SHORT TRAIN RIDE FOR GUESTS, SUGGESTING THAT, ALTHOUGH RAILROAD NOW OFFICIALLY PROPERTY OF GRZ AND TANGOV, THE 1,000 CHINESE TECHNICIANS SLATED TO REMAIN FOR TWO MORE YEARS ARE LIKELY TO BE FULLY EMPLOYED. DESPITE HIGH LEVEL PARTICIPATION IN HAND OVER CEREMONY PUBLIC REACTION OF LOCAL ATTENDEES WAS MUCH LESS SPONTANEOUS AND ENTHUSIASTIC THAN AT LAST OCTOBER INAUGURATION OF RAILROAD (REFTEL A). GLOSSED OVER IN THE PUBLIC HOOPLA WERE TWIN PROBLEMS STILL CONFRONTING LONG-TERM ECONOMIC SUCCESS OF VENTURE: (1) ABILITY OF GRZ AND TANGOV TO OPERATE LINE SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY; (2) POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL COMPETITION FROM BENGUELA AND RHODESIAN RAIL LINKS AT SOME TIME IN FUTURE. ORCHESTRATED TO PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGICAL PUSH TO AFRICAN LIBERATION STRUGGLE AS WELL AS TO DEMONSTRATE GRATITUDE TO CHINESE, PRES. MACHEL, CURRENT KEY FIGURE IN FRONT-LINE STATES' EFFORTS AGAINST RHODESIA WAS CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT. HANDOVER FESTIVITIES WOULD SEEM TO HAVE BEEN NATURAL CONTEXT IN WHICH FOUR FRONT-LINE LEADERS COULD HAVE MADE PUBLIC SHOW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THEIR UNITY AND COMMITMENT TO PUSH ON WITH LIBERATION STRUGGLE.  
WILKOWSKI

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## Message Attributes

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